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QUARTERLY JOURNAL  
OF THE  
STATISTICAL SOCIETY.

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JUNE, 1855.

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*Twenty-first Anniversary Meeting of the Statistical Society.*  
Session 1854-55.

[Held at No. 12, St. James's Square, London, Thursday, 15th March, 1855.]

THOMAS TOOKE, ESQ., V.P., *in the Chair.*

THE Circular convening the Meeting having been read and confirmed, Dr. Guy, one of the Honorary Secretaries, read the following Report of the Council on the progress of the Society during the past year:—

*Report of the Council.*

Twenty years have now elapsed since the Statistical Society held its first Anniversary Meeting, and received the congratulations of the Council on its then state and prospects. Its subsequent progress, as set forth in successive annual reports, has fully justified the sanguine expectations then entertained.

The Society now consists of 353 Members, exclusive of Foreign Honorary, and Corresponding Members, which number has undergone little change since the last Anniversary Meeting. Fourteen new Fellows have been elected; eight have resigned; and nine have died. The withdrawals from the Society have been below, but the deaths above, the average.

The income of the Society for the year ending the 31st December, 1854, falls short by less than 30*l.* of the very large receipts of the previous year. This slight falling-off is partly accounted for by the small amount of arrears left to be collected, and partly by the total absence from the column of receipts of compositions, which amounted for the year 1853 to 105*l.* The finances of the Society have, on the other hand, been recruited by the addition of upwards of 100*l.* to an item to which the Council have great satisfaction in adverting. At their last Anniversary Meeting they had occasion to invite the special attention of the Fellows to the increasing sale of the Journal,

as evidenced by the receipts for the last three years; and they looked forward to a still further increase, in consequence of the publication of the Index. In this expectation the Council are happy to say that they have not been disappointed, for the receipts from this source have been more than sufficient to supply the deficit which an absence of compositions would have left. The sales of the Society's Journals, which realized 50*l.* on the average of the six years ending 1851, 70*l.* in 1852, and 90*l.* in 1853, yielded in 1854 no less than 152*l.*, exclusive of the Index, which created a new source of income to the amount of 45*l.* These two sources of income combined carried to the credit of the Society no less than 197*l.*

At the period of the last Anniversary Meeting the Index was passing through the press, and the Council ventured to anticipate such a demand for it as would enable them to defray the expense of its publication without incurring any fresh liability. This anticipation also has been fulfilled, and more speedily than might have been expected; for, in addition to the receipt of 45*l.* from the sales of the Index itself, there is every reason to believe that the receipt of upwards of 100*l.* for sales of Journals in 1853 and 1854, in excess of the receipt of previous years, is directly traceable to the publication of the Index. A calculation based upon this assumption shows that the publication of the Index has entailed no expense upon the Society; while the remaining copies constitute a valuable property, and a powerful inducement to Fellows of the Society and purchasers of the Journal to complete their sets. The Council are aware that much of the success which has attended this financial experiment is due to the active and zealous services of Mr. Cheshire, the Acting Secretary of the Society.

The expenditure of the Society has fallen short of that of the previous year by 34*l.* The Society's liabilities which, on the 31st December, 1853, amounted to 135*l.* 2*s.* 9*d.*, were reduced on the last day of 1854 to the single liability, since discharged, of 111*l.* 9*s.* 2*d.*, due to the Society's printer. The Council have reason to hope that the balance-sheet for the year ending the 31st December, 1855, will be found free from any entry under this head. This freedom from debt might have been realized, in accordance with the hope expressed by the Council last year, in the balance-sheet now presented to the Society, had it not been for the accidental absence of Compositions. Encouraged by the satisfactory state of the Society's finances, the Council have sanctioned an expenditure of 45*l.*, for the preparation of a Catalogue of the books in the Library. This Catalogue, which they have entrusted to the able and experienced hands of Mr. Wheatley, by whom the valuable Index to the first fifteen volumes of the Society's Journal was compiled, is now complete, and is submitted to the Meeting. The following extracts from a Report given in to the Council by Mr. Wheatley will explain the principle on which this very valuable Catalogue has been compiled. "The library contains 2,000 distinct works, including Tracts, but exclusive of Blue Books; and 2,600 volumes. The Catalogue is arranged in one general *Alphabet*, the library itself being arranged in classes on the shelves. Each work has but one principal descriptive entry. This entry is under the *Author's* name. Anonymous works are placed under the

subject to which they relate. Short classifications of the subjects on which the books in the Library treat, are introduced, referring to the names of the Authors in the same General Alphabet, thereby uniting the advantages of the alphabetical and classified systems. The Tracts are bound up in six collections, or series, corresponding with the system of arrangement adopted with the books upon the shelves; and they are referred to in the Catalogue by number of Series, number of Volume, and number of Tract. Periodical Literature and Books of Reference form classes or divisions by themselves." Material improvements in the arrangement of the books, and considerable additions to the Library, have been made during the progress of this very useful work; and much attention has been given to the completion of defective sets, and the binding of the more valuable books. The improvement which has been effected in the Library itself, and in the rooms of the Society, is too considerable not to have attracted the attention of the Fellows.

Considerable additions have been made to the Library during the past year, partly by purchase and partly by donation. Among the more considerable donors the Council would mention, as deserving of special acknowledgment, the India Board, Mr. Edwin Chadwick, Monsieur Quetelet, and Dr. Edward Jarvis, who has forwarded a third and fourth collection of Statistical and Official publications from America. The Council would also make special mention of the kindness of Lord Romney, in presenting the Society with one of the volumes of the Finance Reports of the United Kingdom, much needed to complete their set. They would also take this opportunity of stating that the Reports for the years 1814 and 1815 are still wanting.

The Ordinary Meetings of the Society held since the last Anniversary have been unusually well attended; and several interesting communications have been read and discussed. Each of the four subdivisions into which the general science of Statistics was divided by the Statistical Section of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, held at Cambridge, in the year preceding the foundation of this Society, namely, "1. Economical Statistics, 2. Political Statistics, 3. Medical Statistics, 4. Moral and Intellectual Statistics, has been illustrated by these communications. To the division of Economical Statistics belong Dr. Guy's paper, "On the relation of the Price of Wheat to the Revenue derived from Customs and Excise;" Mr. Danson's able paper on "Our Commerce with Russia in Peace and War;" Mr. Minasi's paper, "On a Decimal System of Coinage;" Dr. Waddilove's paper, "On the effect of the Recent Orders in Council in relation to British, Russian, and Neutral Commerce;" and Mr. Newmarch's valuable communication, "On the Loans raised by Mr. Pitt during the first French War, 1793-1801, with some statements in defence of the Methods of Funding employed." All these communications, from their direct bearing on questions of the highest interest to the Politician and Statesman, might have been classed with equal propriety under the second head of Political Statistics, to which division Mr. William Tayler's "Statistical and Historical View of the Statutes of the Realm" may also be referred. To the subdivision of Medical Statistics belongs Mr. Angus's com-

munication, "On the Movement of the Population, Mortality, and Fatal Diseases in London in the last fourteen years." Under the head of Moral and Intellectual Statistics, the paper by the Reverend Robert Everest, "On Pauperism and Crime in the United States of America," and that by Mr. Horace Mann, "On the Statistical Position of Religious Bodies in England and Wales," would have to be placed. Mr. Bell's paper on the "Statistics of the Colony of Victoria," and Mr. Welton's paper on the "Statistics of the United States of America," must be arranged in a class of General Statistics, for which the classification just quoted makes no provision. Before leaving this portion of their Report the Council would advert to the bearing which many of the communications now enumerated have upon the most interesting and important questions of the day. To this circumstance may doubtless be attributed the growing estimation in which the Society is held; and it was for the purpose of throwing light upon such questions—for the purpose of procuring, arranging, and publishing "facts calculated to illustrate the condition and prospects of Society"—that the Statistical Society was originally founded.

The British Association for the Advancement of Science, which met at Liverpool in September, 1854, under the Presidency of the Earl of Harrowby, was distinguished by the success that attended the Statistical Section, over which Thomas Tooke, Esq., F.R.S., one of the Vice-Presidents of this Society, presided; no less than by the great prominence given to the science of Statistics in the able and eloquent inaugural address of the noble Chairman. Several valuable papers read at that Meeting have already appeared in the pages of our Journal, and others still remain in reserve. Those who have been so fortunate as to hear or peruse the inaugural address delivered by the Earl of Harrowby on the occasion referred to, will rejoice that the noble Earl has consented a third time to fill the office of President of the Statistical Society.

Amidst so many subjects of congratulation the Council revert with extreme regret to the losses which the Society has lately sustained by the decease of several of its Members. The list of the Foreign Honorary Members of the Society has been deprived of the distinguished name of Leon Faucher, and of that of M. Bergsøe, of Copenhagen, of which two names the latter was added only last year.

The Society has also to regret the loss of one of its distinguished Members, who had belonged to it from its very foundation, The Reverend Richard Jones, ex-Professor of Political Economy in King's College, and the still more severe loss of another of its original Members, Mr. Joseph Hume. The Society will share with the Council, the Legislature, and the Country, the regret with which they have received the announcement of the decease of one who, during a long life of sustained industry, undeviating integrity, and watchful care of the public interests, did so much to demonstrate the value of accurate statistical information, and to apply it to the purposes of good government.

The Earl of Harrowby, in moving the adoption of the Report, expressed his delight that the Society was in a good financial position,

and that the sale of the *Journal* continued to increase. Some one advocated a few years ago that the *Journal* should be suspended; but he (the noble lord) was of opinion that, whatever might be sacrificed, that should be retained. It was the great link that bound together the present and the absent Members of the Society, and would prove eminently useful to the moralists and legislators of future ages. By means of that *Journal* the Society was sending out from day to day very valuable records, of which posterity would reap the fruit. The importance of the Society was increasing every day. It was clear that parliament was becoming more and more unfitted for the complete discussion of great questions, which required calm and lengthened consideration. Parliament was overwhelmed with business, and it was not to be expected that, under such circumstances, 500 or 600 men could meet and discuss philosophically those great and abstruse subjects with which it was the duty of the Society to deal. One of the great functions of the Society was to prepare matters for that great assembly, and that duty it appeared to be performing well. The Society was, moreover, instructing the public mind. Let them take, for instance, that valuable Paper which was read by Mr. Newmarch a few evenings ago, on the subject of the loans raised by Mr. Pitt, and he would ask whether the publication of that valuable essay was not conferring an immense benefit upon parliament and the public? The exertions of the Society were not confined to political matters. It embraced all other subjects having a direct bearing on the well-being of society, and it would have been well if some of our soldiers and sailors had availed themselves of the information it had circulated. There would not then have been that awful sacrifice of life which had been caused by ignorance and blundering.

Colonel Sykes seconded the adoption of the Report, together with the abstract of receipts and payments, and balance sheet of assets and liabilities. He expressed his entire concurrence in the observations of Lord Harrowby, and added that he thought some of the dogmas of political economy might be placed on less questionable bases than those upon which they now stood, by a careful review and collation of the facts that it had been the duty of the Statistical Society to place before the public in the seventeen volumes of its *Journal*. Legislation founded upon assumptions could only be speculative, and might be injurious to the community; but comprehensive statistics necessarily produced generalizations, and consequent safety, in the initiation and adaptation of new laws.

Lord Ebrington bore testimony to the great value of the Society to public men, on account of the fulness and impartiality with which the subjects brought under its notice were investigated and discussed. It was quite a mistake to suppose that all questions brought before Parliament were, or could be, fully or fairly debated, since there were frequently elements in the consideration of questions which it did not suit the tactics of either party to touch, to say nothing of those with which the speakers were imperfectly acquainted.

A ballot was then taken for the President, Council, and Officers for the year ensuing, and the following was declared to be the List:—

*President.*

The Right Hon. the Earl of Harrowby, F.R.S.

*Council.*

James Bird, M.D.	*Herman Merivale, Esq.
Sir John Peter Boileau, Bart., F.R.S.	Horace Mann, Esq.
The Right Hon. Lord Viscount Ebrington, M.P.	William Newmarch, Esq.
William Farr, Esq.	The Right Hon. Lord Overstone
The Right Hon. Charles William, Earl Fitzwilliam, K.G., F.R.S.	The Right Rev. The Lord Bishop of Oxford, F.R.S.
James William Gilbert, Esq., F.R.S.	The Right Hon. Sir John Somerset Pakington, Bart., M.P.
The Right Hon. W. Ewart Gladstone, M.P., D.C.L.	Robert Aglionby Slaney, Esq.
William Augustus Guy, M.B.	*T. H. Sutton Sotheron, Esq., M.P.
The Right Hon. The Earl of Harrowby	*The Right Hon. Lord Stanley, M.P.
James Heywood, Esq., M.P., F.R.S.	Colonel W. H. Sykes, F.R.S.
Thomas Hodgkin, M.D.	Thomas Tooke, Esq., F.R.S.
*John Gellibrand Hubbard, Esq.	Lord Harry George Vane, M.P.
Charles Jellicoe, Esq.	*John Walter, Esq., M.P.
William Golden Lumley, Esq.	*The Right Hon. Lord Wharncliffe, F.R.S.
The Right Hon. Holt Mackenzie, F.G.S.	The Right Hon. Lord Wodehouse
	The Rev. E. Wyatt-Edgell

*\* Those marked thus are New Members.**Treasurer.*

William Farr, Esq.

*Honorary Secretaries.*

William Augustus Guy, M.B.	William Newmarch, Esq.
William Golden Lumley, Esq.	

Lord Stanley, M.P., in moving a vote of thanks to the retiring President, Council, and Officers, for their services during the past year, congratulated the Society on its increased and increasing usefulness. He thought some means ought to be adopted for making its operations better known, especially amongst members of the legislature, who were deeply interested in the questions it investigated. He thought also that people who took an interest in public affairs should be made more extensively acquainted with what the Society was doing. For himself he would say, he had no idea of the practical value of the Society in reference to the public affairs of the day, prior to becoming a member of it, and he was afraid that many others participated in that ignorance. The journals of the Society contained most valuable information; but at present he believed their perusal was almost altogether confined to those who took an interest in statistics, and already appreciated their importance. As regarded the Society itself, its present position was highly satisfactory, and reflected the greatest credit on those who had been intrusted with its management.

Mr. Tottie seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

Lord Ebrington, M.P., then moved, and Mr. Lodge seconded, a vote of thanks to the Chairman, and the meeting separated.

*Abstract of RECEIPTS and PAYMENTS for the Year ended the 31st of DECEMBER, 1854.*

RECEIPTS.		PAYMENTS.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Balance brought forward (less debit balance of Petty Cash).	68 8 10	Rent . . . . .	150 0 0
Arrears 2 Subscriptions, at 2 guineas . . . . .	4 4 0	Salaries . . . . .	195 0 0
Subscriptions for the Current Year, 282 at 2 guineas . . . . .	592 4 0	Journal { Printing . . . . . £229 0 9 } . . . . .	262 17 4
Dividends . . . . .	27 2 10	General Index (in addition to £25 last year) . . . . .	130 4 6
Journal Sales (including Index Sales, £45 2s. 6d.) . . . . .	197 0 6	Library . . . . .	80 12 9
Institute of Actuaries (half share of Rent) . . . . .	75 0 0	Stationery and Printing (1½ year) . . . . .	69 14 1
		Postage and Receipt Stamps . . . . .	11 10 0
		Firing and Lighting . . . . .	8 17 11
		Ordinary Meetings . . . . .	16 6 9
		Miscellaneous . . . . .	25 4 11
		Balance carried forward (less debit balance of Petty Cash). . . . .	73 12 11
	£964 0 2		£964 0 2

*Balance Sheet of ASSETS and LIABILITIES on the 31st of DECEMBER, 1854.*

ASSETS.		LIABILITIES.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Cash Balance in Bank (less debit balance of Petty Cash) . . . . .	73 12 11	Journal.—Printer (½ year) . . . . .	111 9 2
Stock, New 3 per Cents., £569 17s. 0d., cost . . . . .	567 0 0	Balance in favour of Society . . . . .	956 9 9
Stock, 3 per Cent. Consols, £328 15s. 4d., „ . . . .	300 0 0		
Office Furniture, Fixtures, &c. (exclusive of the Library). . . . .	100 0 0		
Arrears 13 Subscriptions, at 2 guineas . . . . .	27 6 0		
	£1,067 18 11		£1,067 18 11
		Examined and approved—	
		(Signed) { WILLIAM CAMPS, M.D. } . . . . .	
		{ W. B. HODGE, } . . . . .	
		{ C. JELlicoe, } . . . . .	
		Auditors.	
		12, ST. JAMES'S SQUARE, LONDON,	
		20th January, 1855.	